Cecilia Gerald

Education 7201

Professor O’Connor-Petruso

Reflection 2

September 20, 2011

*How important is the literature review (and differentiating between various types of journals) and assessing prior research, theorists, and current instructional strategies?*

The literature review is an important component of writing a thesis. It gives an overview of all of the important information that exists about the research topic using a wide variety of sources, such as scholarly journals, peer-reviewed articles, case studies, books, and etc. The literature review not only takes into consideration the supporting side of a topic, but the cons as well. It is important because it examines the full scope of an issue and helps the researcher to determine if there are any “missing links” within the topic that need further investigation. This, in turn, can help the researcher identify his/her position on the issue, and hopefully enable them to make a contribution through their research.

The various types of journals are important because they offer the researcher information about a topic that is held to high academic standards. Trade journals can be used to glean up-to-date knowledge from the professionals within a field. They can also reflect the common standards of an industry at large. Scholarly and academic journals report research findings by field experts and their peers. The use of articles that are blind refereed or peer-reviewed can eliminate biases or conflicts of interest that might interfere with the reliability of original research.

Assessing prior research on a topic gives an accurate picture of the measures that were previously taken and their results, and where (if any) improvements or modifications should be made. Assessing theorists increases understanding of the topic because it enables you to view the facts of an issue from different perspectives, since ach theorist has their own unique analysis of a given topic. Assessing current instructional strategies is important because it enables you to analyze what is happening in the actual classroom, connect it to the information you find in literature review and from prior research and theorists, and propose ways to change them for the better.